

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

### Claims Status

Claims 16 through 23 remain pending in the application. Claims 16, 17, 20, and 21 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 16 and 20 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

### Claim Objection

Claims 16 through 23 are objected to for the presence of a minor informality therein. In response, 16 through 23 have been amended to address the grounds of the objection. Specifically, the expression “rotatable member” has been amended to read --rotational member-- to conform more closely with the specification. It is respectfully submitted that the grounds of the objection have been overcome.

### Art Rejection

Claims 16 through 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kanamori ‘577 (EP 0 905 577 A2), which was cited in an Information Disclosure Statement dated November 5, 2003.

The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

### Response to Rejection

Kanamori, et al. '577 has a publication date of March 31, 1999.

Applicants note that a certified English-language translation of Japanese Priority Application No. JP 11-085478, was filed in parent Application No. 09/536,303 on February 5, 2002, and a Claim to Priority was filed in the present application on November 5, 2003, which references the Claim to Priority in the parent application. The Japanese Priority Application has a filing date of March 29, 1997. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kanamori, et al. '577 has been removed as prior art to the present application and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner is referred to the parent application for the sworn translation. Accordingly, Applicants believe that it is not necessary to file a sworn translation in the present application.

### Additional Comments

Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 6,185,401B (Kanamori, et al. '401) is related to Kanamori, et al. '577, which was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 5, 2003. Applicants submit that the present invention is patentable over Kanamori, et al. '401

The following comments are provided for the Examiner's consideration.

Independent Claim 16 calls for a toner supply container is detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus. The toner supply container includes a container body for containing toner. The container body has an opening, a shutter for closing and opening the opening, a first gear portion provided in the shutter, a rotational member manually rotatable

relative to the container body in a first rotational direction and a second rotational direction opposite to the first rotational direction, and a second gear portion provided in the rotational member.

Independent Claim 20 calls for an image forming apparatus that includes image forming means for forming a toner image on an image bearing member, a container mounting and dismounting portion for mounting and dismounting a toner supply container containing toner, a drive transmission mechanism including a second gear member for receiving a driving force and a first gear member for transmitting the driving force received from the second gear member to the toner supply container, the toner supply container being detachably mountable to the container mounting and dismounting portion, the toner supply container including a container body for containing toner, the container body having an opening, a shutter for closing and opening the opening, a first gear portion provided in the shutter, a rotational member manually rotatable relative to the container body in a first rotational direction and a second rotational direction opposite the first rotational direction, and a second gear portion provided in the rotational member.

In a state in which a toner supply container is set to an image forming apparatus, a drive transmission path from a rotational member to a shutter is established by engagement of a first gear portion with a first gear member of a drive transmission mechanism provided in the image forming apparatus and engagement of a second gear portion with a second gear member of the drive transmission mechanism. The shutter is movable toward an opening position by a rotation of a rotational member in a first rotational direction and is movable toward a closing position by a rotation of the rotational member in a second

rotational direction. The rotational member is contactable to a part of the image forming apparatus in a mounting operation of the toner supply container to the image forming apparatus and rotates in the first rotational direction to a predetermined first position with a mounting operation before the drive transmission path is established, wherein in a state in which the toner supply container is set to the image forming apparatus, when the rotational member is rotated in the second rotational direction to close the shutter. The rotational member is rotatable to a predetermined second position, which is downstream of the first position with respect to the second rotational direction, wherein in a dismounting operation for dismounting the toner supply container from the image forming apparatus, the shutter of which is closed, the rotational member is rotatable in the first rotational direction from the second position to the first position before the drive transmission path is disconnected by the rotational member contacting a part of the image forming apparatus, and wherein the shutter is substantially non-movable toward the opening position when the rotational member is rotating from the second position to the first position in the dismounting operation.

Kanamori, et al. '401 discloses that by mounting a toner container 1 to a main assembly 124 of a image forming apparatus, a gear 15a of a rotational handle 15 and an engaging portion 21a of a main assembly side drive transmission member 21 are engaged with each other, and a engageable member 22 of a shutter 16 and an engaging portion 21b of the main assembly side drive transmission member 21 are engaged with each other, so that a drive transmission path is established. By the establishment of the drive transmission path, the rotational handle 15 is rotated, and the shutter 16 is closed.

However, the rotational handle 15 does not rotate even if the container is mounted, unless the operator directly and rotates grips the rotational handle.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kanamori, et al. '401 does not disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention that a rotational member is contactable to a part of the image forming apparatus in a mounting operation of the toner supply container to the image forming apparatus and rotates in a first rotational direction to a predetermined first position with the mounting operation before the drive transmission path is established as recited in Claims 16 and 20.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Kanamori, et al. also does not disclose or suggest the feature that in a dismounting operation of the toner supply container from the image forming apparatus, the shutter of which is closed, a rotational member is rotatable in the first rotational direction from a second position to a first position before the drive transmission path is disconnected by the rotational member contacting a part of the image forming apparatus as recited in Claims 16 and 20.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 16 and 20 are allowable over the cited art.

#### Dependent Claims

Claims 17 through and 21 through 23 depend directly from Claims 16 and 20, respectively, and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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